

Mr Ian Grey
Chair
Waverton Precinct
21 Balls Head Road
WAVERTON NSW 2060

Dear Mr Grey

I acknowledge and thank you for the correspondence regarding the Hume Street Park Stage 2 project and Kelly's Place Children's Centre. Please find enclosed correspondence I have sent to both the Mayor, North Sydney Council, Councillor Zoe Baker, and the President, Kelly's Place Children's Centre, Ms Julie-Ann Boseley, on 4 September 2026.

The NSW Government is not responsible for the operation, relocation, or facilitating the transition of Kelly's Place Children's Centre to other childcare services within the area. These matters remain the responsibility of Council and the Centre's management to ultimately resolve. I note that Council, at its meeting on 29 June 2026, resolved not to extend the lease for the Centre beyond 31 December 2026.

In the context of the delivery of the Hume Street Park Stage 2 project, I am awaiting advice from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on the Council's report on the community consultation process and outcomes. As my correspondence to the Mayor and the Centre's President makes clear, this will include a concept design option, which integrates public open space with the provision of childcare services.

There appears to be a misleading assertion that the design, timing, and project delivery for the Hume Street Park Stage 2 project by the NSW Government – still to be determined by me - is linked to the Council's decision about the future of Kelly's Place Children's Centre. This is not the case.

I hope that the enclosed correspondence assists in clarifying the role of the NSW Government on this issue.

Yours sincerely



Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

7/9/16

Councillor Zoe Baker
Mayor
North Sydney Council
PO Box 12
North Sydney NSW 2059
mayor@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mayor *Zoe*

As you are aware, I wrote to you on 5 August 2026 regarding the Hume Street Park Stage 2 project and the future of Kelly's Place Children's Centre. This followed your letter to me of 3 July 2026.

I am disappointed that Council appears reluctant to publicly explain, justify, or defend its decision of 29 June 2026 to not extend the lease for Kelly's Place Children's Centre beyond 31 December 2026.

As you are also aware, there has been misleading assertions that NSW Government decisions – yet to be determined by me - on the design, project timing, and delivery pathway for the Hume Street Park Stage 2 project are somehow linked with Council's decision on the future of Kelly's Place Children's Centre.

To make sure there are no further misconceptions on this matter, I indicate the following:

- No construction-associated works will proceed on the project until after March 2027.
- No part of the NSW Government's \$9.3 million funding envelope for the project can, or will be allocated, to the demolition of the Centre.
- If the Council, as the existing landowner, decides to proceed with the demolition of the facility, it will be responsible for the costs.

I am awaiting advice from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on the Council's report on the community consultation process and outcomes. Once considered - and again consistent with the two meetings held with parties on this issue and reflected in my recent correspondence - this will include a concept design option which integrates public open space with the provision of childcare services.

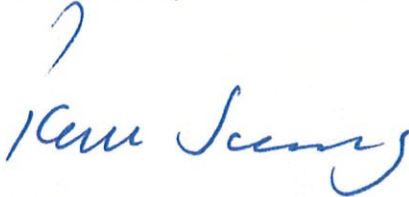
I repeated this assurance during Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No 7 Budget Estimates Committee hearings on Monday, 24 August 2026. I enclose the relevant extracts of the Hansard for your information.

While the NSW Government has no legislative or regulatory authority over the Council's decision not to extend the lease for the Centre beyond 31 December 2026, the continued public silence of the Council to explain, justify, or defend its decision on this matter is untenable.

I also request information from Council as soon as possible on the progress of the commitment you indicated in your letter of 3 July 2026 to “assist Kelly’s Place with appropriate transition arrangements prior to the expiry of its lease and to work collaboratively with neighbouring councils and childcare providers to support affected families.”

Unless I am satisfied that Council is meeting this commitment - especially in the context of its decision not to extend the lease beyond 31 December 2026 - I will also consider cancelling the Hume Street Park Stage 2 project and allocating the funding to another project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Scully', with a large, stylized initial 'P' above the first name.

Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
Encl. Extracts of the Hansard

4/9/26

Ms Julie-Ann Boseley
President
Kelly's Place Children's Centre
emailme.jules@gmail.com

Dear Ms Boseley

I acknowledge your correspondence of 20 August 2026 regarding the Hume Street Park Stage 2 project and Kelly's Place Children's Centre.

As you are aware, I wrote to you on 6 August 2026, addressing the NSW Government's role in the delivery of the Hume Street Park Stage 2 project.

It has also been previously acknowledged by all parties, including representatives of the Kelly's Place Children Centre, that the NSW Government is not responsible for the operation of the Centre, its relocation, or facilitating its transition to other childcare services within the area.

These important issues remain the responsibility of North Sydney Council and the Centre's management to resolve. I have indicated previously that I share the disappointment of the Centre's management and parents at the Council's decision on 29 June 2026 to not extend the lease for the Centre beyond the 31 December 2026. However, this decision has been made by the Council as the existing landowner.

The NSW Government has no legislative or regulatory authority in this decision. It remains misleading for anyone to assert otherwise.

In the context of the delivery of the Hume Street Park Stage 2 project, as outlined in my letter to you of 6 August 2026, I am awaiting advice from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on the Council's report on the community consultation process and outcomes. Once considered - and again consistent with the two recent meetings held with parties on this issue and reflected in my recent correspondence - this will include a concept design option which integrates public open space with the provision of childcare services.

I repeated this assurance during the Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No 7 Budget Estimates Committee hearings on Monday, 24 August 2026. I enclose the relevant extracts of the Hansard for your information.

While the design, project timing, and delivery pathway for the Hume Street Park Stage 2 project are still further decisions that I will determine, I confirm the following:

- No construction-associated work will proceed on the project until after March 2027.
- No part of the NSW Government's \$9.3 million funding envelope for the Hume Street Park Stage 2 project can, or will be, allocated to any planned demolition of the Centre.

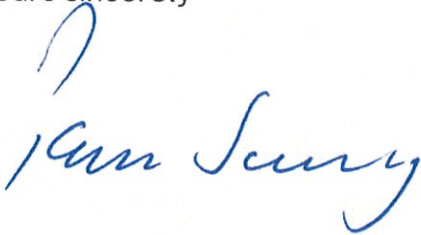
If the Council, as the existing landowner, wishes to proceed with any planned demolition of the facility, it will be responsible for these costs.

In my view, these further clarifications resolve any lingering misleading assertion that the design, timing, and delivery of the project, and any further resolution of the issues between the Council and the Centre on its future are linked, or in any way dependent on decisions still to be made by me on behalf of the NSW Government regarding the Hume Street Park 2 project.

I have written to the Mayor, North Sydney Council, Councillor Zoe Baker, formally advising her of my position. Please find enclosed my correspondence for your information.

As I have previously indicated, it also remains open to the Member for Willoughby, Mr Tim James MP, as a senior member of the NSW Liberal-Nationals Shadow Cabinet, to make his own funding commitments relating to the Hume Street Park Stage 2 project and retention of the Centre at its location.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Scully', with a stylized initial 'P' above the first name.

Paul Scully MP

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

Encl. Extracts of the Hansard

Letter to Cllr Zoe Baker - MINS-96343 - Kelly's Place Children's Centre - 03 September 2026

4/9/26

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The Hon. CHRIS RATH: I want to turn now to Kelly's Place Children's Centre. The New South Wales Government is providing \$9.3 million for Hume Street Park stage 2 in Crows Nest. You have said the design timing and delivery are decisions you would determine. If this State-led project results in the demolition of Kelly's Place Children's Centre, that is an outcome your Government has chosen to enable, isn't it?

Mr PAUL SCULLY: No. I think it's important that everyone is dealing with an accurate set of facts here because there has been some misrepresentation of what's actually going on. To be honest, we've had good engagement with the parents and with the local member of Parliament, Mr James, who gave me the hot tip that this might be an issue. There are tip-offs all over the place. It's important to re-emphasise that North Sydney Council is the landowner and is responsible for the lease and the property matters relating to Kelly's Place. There have been a couple of meetings with my office, the department, North Sydney Council, representatives of the children's centre and with Mr James about what's happening there with respect to Hume Street Park stage 2 and the children's centre. From those two meetings, it has been clearly acknowledged by all parties that neither the New South Wales Government nor the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has responsibility for the operation of Kelly's Place, its relocation or facilitating its transition to other childcare services in the local area. There was a resolution of council, and the resolution of those matters rests with council.

Council, I understand, at its meeting of 29 June this year, resolved not to extend the lease of Kelly's Place beyond 31 December this year. The mayor wrote to me informing me of that fact on 3 July. Council has conducted consultation on additional open space at the Hume Street Park stage 2 location and invited public submissions. We have decided off the back of those conversations to actually put forward two proposals for that park, one that includes a childcare centre and one that doesn't, on the basis that whether or not a childcare centre in Kelly's Place remains there is ultimately a decision for the council. But what I can assure the Committee of is that not one blade of grass will be touched under the amount funded by the New South Wales Government prior to the election, so if the local member wants to advocate and take to the election a commitment to buy the park, to buy Kelly's Place or do whatever, that would be open to that member to do. For the information of the Committee, I wrote back to both Mr James and the mayor following their correspondence. This was on 5 August this year. I am happy to table both those letters for the information of the Committee, if they're interested, so that we're all working off that same information.

The Hon. CHRIS RATH: You're providing the \$9.3 million?

Mr PAUL SCULLY: Correct.

The Hon. CHRIS RATH: Ultimately the final decision is made by you. If you want to hand it over to the council, you can. But, even your own letter that you have just tabled makes it very clear that the design, timing and delivery are decisions that you will determine.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: Correct.

The Hon. CHRIS RATH: So the final decision is with you.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: That's why I have made the commitment that not a blade of grass will be touched prior to the election. If there's a contest of ideas in that particular seat, then the Opposition may wish to take forward a proposal where they buy it, where they reallocate that \$9 million and the park is perhaps not delivered. I don't know the value off the top of my head, what that might be sold for. The reality is we don't do anything with it. We have undertaken to provide two options with respect to the future of that, one that includes a childcare centre and one that doesn't, in terms of the park. But we will not be proceeding with any work to deliver that prior to the election. If the alternate government—whichever party it may be—wishes to take forward an alternate proposal, then that's open for them to do.

The Hon. CHRIS RATH: The alternate proposal that doesn't include a childcare centre would spell the end of this very Kelly's Place Children's Centre. They have a waitlist of 140 families. There's a shortage of childcare space across Sydney.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: That's why I think most people and most parents would conclude that the council's decision—and this was a resolution of council, because they are the landowner and provide the lease. The New South Wales Government is neither landholder nor leaseholder in this particular case, but council, as the existing landowner, has the future of Kelly's Place in its hands. It decided, as I just mentioned, in its meeting on 29 June that they would not be extending the lease of Kelly's Place beyond 31 December. As to the reasons why, and as to what they intend to do to support those families, those questions should be addressed to the mayor. They

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are the ones that the fate of those children on that waiting list, the parents and of any support for relocating to other centres rests with ultimately.

The Hon. CHRIS RATH: The childcare centre has been there for 40 years.

Mr PAUL SCULLY: And we're happy for it to remain. That's why we will prepare an option for the redevelopment of the park that involves and doesn't involve a childcare centre.

The Hon. CHRIS RATH: Can you give a guarantee that the childcare centre will continue to remain and, if the council tries to remove its use, that you will intervene to ensure that it does?

Mr PAUL SCULLY: That's not my guarantee to give. I am neither the landholder nor the leaseholder. However, if the Opposition wishes to take forward a proposal to the next election and is successful in forming government and they promise to keep the childcare centre or buy it and move it into New South Wales Government hands, that's on them. What I have undertaken to do is, firstly, not touch a blade of grass on that site prior to the election and, secondly, to deliver two concept plans, one that involves the retention of the buildings and one that doesn't. Ultimately, as I say, this is owned and leased—and property matters relating to Kelly's Place are best addressed and can only be addressed to the mayor and councillors of North Sydney Council.

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